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We help Senator Voinovich (R-OH) pass legislation authorizing \$1 billion to clean up trucks, buses and barges across America. Voinovich had this to say:

"I would like to thank Environmental Defense for all the hard work they have put into making sure this legislation becomes a reality."

Landmark ocean protection plan offers hope for California

Only a handful of people were aware of the undersea treasure lying off one of California's most traveled coastlines until marine biologists compared notes with fishermen and unveiled a secret: Off Big Sur lay coral gardens seven feet tall, where some of the world's biggest rockfish roamed alongside whole communities of rare species.

This zone, extending 200 miles offshore, is one of only four places on Earth where an upwelling of water from the ocean floor distributes huge amounts of nutrients. It must be protected if future generations of Americans are to enjoy wild-caught fish from the region. But trawlers, dragging weighted nets along the ocean floor, were doing heavy damage.

"This is one of the most productive ecosystems in the world," said Jay Elder, harbor master of Port San Luis. "Yet it wasn't being adequately protected." Faulty science and decades of disputes between fishermen and regulators had brought about an economic and environmental collapse. In 2002, the government finally closed some areas to bottom trawling, but even this didn't stop the steady decline of fish stocks.

Banning trawling across a much larger area was necessary, but some fishermen were barely making a profit and passionately opposed further regulation. To break the logjam, Environmental Defense marine ecologist Dr. Rod Fujita joined forces with The Nature Conservancy and found a way to gain fishermen's support.

FINDING A SOLUTION

We offered to buy out vessels and permits from trawlers willing to sell and to help fishermen market sustainably



Craig Aurness/Corbis

In a prime example of "finding the ways that work," we joined with commercial fishermen and The Nature Conservancy to protect 3.8 million acres of undersea habitat from trawling.

caught fish at a premium price, if they agreed to support large no-trawl zones.

"Environmental Defense is assisting us in building new markets that will

Please see Cover Story, p. 2



An ocean win in Hawaiian Islands Page 8

More protection for a 1,200-mile-long archipelago and the endangered monk seals and ancient corals found there

On global warming, the Senate has spoken; now it must act



This summer marked a watershed moment in environmental history. Climate initiatives by numerous corporations were announced; cities

and states came together to combat global warming; a landmark vote marked the first time a majority of the Senate expressed support for the right kind of legislation. Although we were disappointed the McCain-Lieberman bill did not pass, the next vote broke the logjam.

Following efforts by Environmental Defense in key states, a bipartisan Senate majority called for a mandatory cap on greenhouse gas pollution, using a market-based approach to spur innovation and cre-

ate new jobs and wealth.

This "Sense of the Senate" resolution, though nonbinding, changes the course of the debate. It also begins to catch the Senate up to the country: 167 state and local governments already have climate policies; 80% of Americans favor legislation to reduce emis-

A majority calls for a mandatory carbon cap on global warming pollution

sions; and newspapers from Dubuque, IA, to Bangor, ME, have editorialized in support of action.

When that surge reached Capitol Hill, 53 senators, including many formerly opposed to action, voted for the resolution. Usually, once the Senate

has "spoken" on an issue it leaves it alone temporarily. This time, surprisingly, three committees moved quickly into hearings to turn rhetoric into action. Among the new advocates is Lamar Alexander (R-TN), who urged colleagues to find the "brilliant intersection" where good economic and environmental policy meet. Mike DeWine (R-OH) volunteered to work with McCain and Lieberman on the next version of their bill. "History is on the side of a bill similar to this," he explained.

We mustn't let this upwelling evaporate into a mirage of action, such as the empty Hagel bill recently passed by the Senate. With your help, we'll ensure the promising new momentum leads to decisive action.

Former opponents join to protect coastal waters

Continued from p. 1

revive fisheries and fishing communities," said Elder. "Without this help in keeping us in business, we would not have come to the table. We don't want to depend solely on tourism here."

Once trust was established, fishermen began disclosing highly confidential information on where they fished. Together, we mapped out no-trawl zones and achieved our ecological goals while

still allowing fishermen to make a living by permitting trawling in less critical areas.

"This was revolutionary," noted Elder. "Fishermen never tell you their secrets." We then spearheaded the advocacy that won federal and state support for the plan. In the end, our prescription for safeguarding essential fish habitat won out over less inclusive plans.

The dramatic result is that 3.8 million acres of undersea habitat will be protected, including reefs, offshore banks, underwater canyons, seamounts and corals that harbor a spectacular diversity of ocean life. Now, California's legendary rockfish fishery has a chance to survive, and historic fishing villages from Point Conception to Point Sur can remain vibrant—all thanks to the success of Environmental Defense in finding consensus among a habitually embattled group of stakeholders.

"This solution is an opportunity for us to be the ones doing the protecting," said Captain Chris Kubiak, a trawl fisherman out of Morro Bay. "We never would have been able to help enact these protections without Environmental Defense."



Among the areas that received protection is the Davidson Sea Mount, home to this tiny crab and sponge.

NOAA and MBARI

e
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE
finding the ways that work

Solutions

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MAILBAG

Editor:

Your little bimonthly bulletin is refreshing after all the big, glossy paper waste which floods the mailbox. Chock full of information, it is a glimmer of hope.

Eleanor Knotts, New York, NY



Editor:

Regarding "EPA takes the wrong course on mercury" (May-June Solutions), I fail to understand why Environmental Defense so strongly supports most pollutant trading agreements, but you are so strongly against this one. I agree that mercury is a "hazardous pollutant," but aren't CO₂ and NO_x also in this category?

Fred Fritsch, Livermore, CA

Environmental Defense air policy expert Michael Shore responds:

Mercury differs in several crucial ways. Unlike CO₂ and NO_x, mercury is acutely poisonous, persists in the local environment, and biomagnifies up the food chain, all of which mean that it causes local problems now and long into the future. Trading mercury pollution credits, therefore, could allow hot spots of toxic contamination to go unaddressed. Carbon pollution, by contrast, has no local impact—so trading works well to find the lowest cost ways to cut pollution.

The Bush administration's mercury program would also delay pollution cuts for more than a decade, another reason we're opposing it in court.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
See addresses at left.

Washington watch



Congressman Pombo seeks to abolish Endangered Species Act

Congressman Richard Pombo (R-CA) claims he wants to save endangered species by destroying the law that protects them. In his 12 years in Congress, the property rights advocate and former rancher has campaigned relentlessly against the Endangered Species Act.

This year, as chairman of the House Committee on Resources, he circulated a draft rewrite of the Act that would pile on bureaucratic requirements for listing species while slashing protection for many. As a final "reform," Pombo's bill would eliminate the Act altogether in 10 years.

"This should be called the 'Every species left behind' bill," says our wildlife director Michael Bean. Bean and his colleagues released two studies to counter Pombo's assertion that the Act has been a failure. One shows the Act has been a vital safety net, although recovery of species is neither quick nor simple. The second outlines ways the Act can be improved now, without Congressional action.

Our wildlife staff continues to

work with Congress toward other legislation benefiting species, even as Bean admits, "If we thought a good result were possible in Congress, that would be a top priority. That doesn't seem to be the case right now."

If, as seems likely, the House passes an extreme bill, the more moderate Senate may not wish to take up Endangered Species Act reform this year. Recent testimony by Environmental Defense at Senate hearings shows one direction that future legislation might take. Our Safe Harbor approach, Bean testified, helps landowners protect species without fear of new restrictions on their land. Demand for such programs is growing rapidly.

"There's a growing consensus that endangered species and landowners needn't be at odds," says our economist Robert Bonnie. "Congress just hasn't caught on yet."



MORE ON THE WEB: Send a message to your Congressional representatives urging them not to weaken the Act. Go to: environmentaldefense.org/campaign/ESA_bill. And find our reports at www.environmentaldefense.org/go/esatoday.



Glenn Mills/TPWD

Without the Endangered Species Act, 40 pair of northern aplomado falcons would not have established themselves so well in Texas after a 43-year absence.

Fewer antibiotics will be used on hog farms

HOW WE GOT AMERICA'S LARGEST FOOD SERVICE COMPANY TO TACKLE ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT BACTERIA

From backyard barbecues to ham and eggs, pork is one of America's favorite foods. But the pork that arrives at your table likely comes from an animal that was fed antibiotics for much of its life, contributing to the upward trend in antibiotic resistant bugs in people.

Environmental Defense set out to change all that with partner company Compass Group. Compass is the world's largest food service company, feeding millions of people through catering businesses, restaurant services and cafeterias for clients like IBM and the Chicago public school system.

"Environmental Defense came to us with a compelling case for how we could lead the industry in reducing antibiotic overuse in agriculture," said Dave McGinnis, vice president for strategic culinary initiatives at Compass, "and now we are seeing that idea become a reality."

With Compass, we developed the first corporate policy limiting antibiotic use in pork production. The policy requires both poultry and pork suppliers not to use medically important antibiotics as growth promoters in animals they raise from birth. To ensure an ample supply of meat, we met with Compass's main pork supplier, industry giant Smithfield Foods and found that they were already on the road to reducing antibiotics use.

Scientists estimate that up to 70% of antibiotics in the United States are fed to farm animals, mostly to promote growth and compensate for stressful conditions. This unnecessary use enables bacteria,

such as the ones that cause food poisoning, to become resistant to the drugs doctors depend on for treatment. And because bacteria readily swap genes, that resistance can be transferred to a vast array of bacteria. The Centers for Disease Control deems antibiotic resistance "a top priority." But the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) cumbersome legal mecha-

nisms can take up to 20 years to remove an unsafe drug from the market.

LEADING BUSINESSES SPUR CHANGE

To secure faster action, we deployed a proven Environmental Defense strategy: enlisting market leaders to help us spark industry change. We began by developing poultry purchasing agreements with McDonald's in 2003. Next we targeted pork, the heaviest user of medically important antibiotics as feed additives. "The pork industry is hard to change because purchasers generally don't buy the whole animal," explains our project manager Millie Chu Baird. "If a company wants to buy only bacon, the producer has little incentive to alter its production practices."

Fortunately, we already had a dialogue going with the nation's largest pork producer. Our North Carolina office had helped craft an agreement where Smithfield and other pork producers would implement less polluting ways to treat hog waste. When we approached Smithfield with Compass at our side, Smithfield agreed to supply pork that meets Compass's requirements.

In an industry that remains largely in denial over the dangers of antibiotic overuse, Smithfield's position is precedent setting. "Reducing antibiotic use makes



Randy Farris/Corbis

When antibiotics fail, it is the children who suffer most.

A tough negotiator on food safety



When Becky Goldberg chose ecology, chickens weren't high on her list of favorite wildlife. But she became concerned about the impacts of agriculture while doing Ph.D. research in Minnesota.

Today she is an internationally recognized expert on the environmental and health

issues surrounding food production, helping the USDA develop organic standards, advising the National Academy of Sciences and conducting cutting-edge research on fish farming. To broker our antibiotics agreements with McDonald's and Compass, Goldberg got down in the dirt with suppliers. "Becky knows the science and just keeps pushing," says our Alliances director Gwen Ruta. "I wouldn't negotiate without her."

sense for our business and for our customers,” said Dennis Tracey, vice president for environmental, community and government affairs at Smithfield.

But voluntary actions alone won't solve the problem, so our team is leading efforts to change federal policy. In April, Environmental Defense, the American Academy of Pediatrics and others petitioned FDA to ban the use of medically important antibiotics in animal feed. And

the American Medical Association and nearly 300 other groups have joined us in supporting the bipartisan Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act, which would end use of medically important antibiotics as feed additives unless FDA finds they are safe. To get state and local leaders into the act, we released *Resistant Bugs and Antibiotic Drugs*, the first study ever to estimate local antibiotic use.

“Antibiotics have saved countless

lives over the past generation. We need to ensure they have the power to protect the next generation,” says our attorney Karen Florini.



WHAT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY CAN DO: You can help preserve the power of antibiotics by not taking them for viral infections like the flu. For more on antibiotics in medicine, visit www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/community/.

Find out how many antibiotics are used in your area at www.environmentaldefense.org/go/antibiotic.estimate

How resistant bacteria can get from farms to people

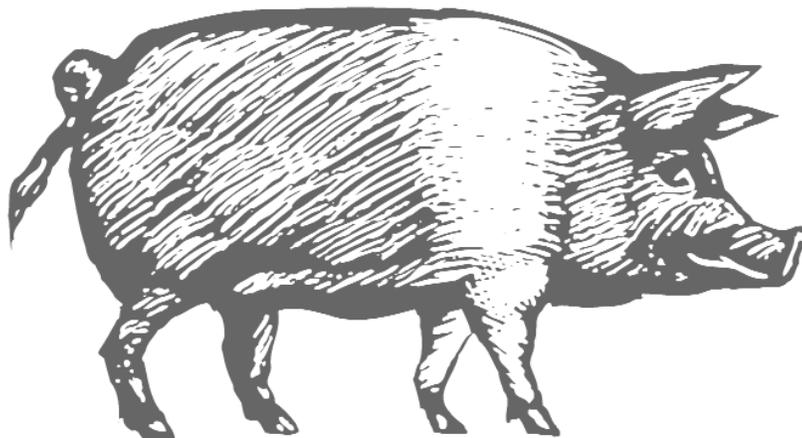
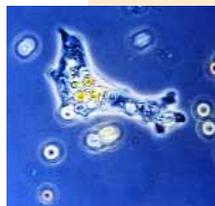
Each year across the United States, an estimated 26.5 million pounds of antibiotics are fed to farm animals, seven times the amount prescribed to humans. Such uses promote the development and spread of illnesses that are difficult to treat.

People are most likely to come into contact with resistant bacteria by eating undercooked meat, but the bacteria can also contaminate air, water and soil. People living near industrial-style farms may be at greater risk of exposure.

Too many drugs. An estimated 69% of the medically important antibiotics used in animal feed is administered to hogs.



Resistance develops. When regularly dosed with human antibiotics, bacteria become resistant to them—and can transfer the resistance genes to other kinds of bacteria.



Natural carriers. Bacteria can be transferred to other locations by birds, rodents, insects and other wildlife, as well as by wind and water.



Direct link to humans. Consumers can be exposed to resistant bacteria if meat is not properly cooked or if the bacteria are spread during food preparation to kitchen surfaces or utensils.



The problem spreads. Multi-drug resistant bacteria have been found in the air and in groundwater around animal farms. Contaminated water can flow into lakes and rivers that are used for swimming and fishing, and into drinking water wells.



Regional update

A bold new plan for North Carolina's future

In eastern North Carolina, the rivers run slow and dark through vast tupelo swamps before emptying into Albemarle Sound. The forests are home to red wolf, mink and migrating songbirds, while the waters are a gigantic nursery, sustaining fish that migrate hundreds of miles.

But change is on its way. Agricultural pollution and overfishing are on the rise, and natural habitat is coming under pressure from thousands of new homes.

To help save unique ecosystems like this, Environmental Defense convened a series of forums across the state. Hundreds of business and civic leaders gathered to plan for a future that would allow for both economic growth and environmental protection. Guiding the discussion was our report, *Horizon 2100*, endorsed by 130 scientists.

The state's finest minds gather to chart the future.

David McNaught, the project's organizer. "But if you ask how North Carolina can be its best 100 years from now, people agree on most issues."

Our laboratory for this integrated vision is Albemarle Sound. We have inventoried the area's natural resources and are working with farmers, businesses and fishermen to create a management plan based on *Horizon 2100* principles.

Said David Womack, a Greenville businessman: "It's time to dispel the notion that there's a disconnect between environmental stewardship and business growth."



Albemarle Sound is one of America's great estuaries. What will it look like in 100 years?

"Too often, businesspeople and conservationists have been at loggerheads," said our economist Dr.



Many utilities in the Northeast prefer the certainty of a carbon cap-and-trade system.

Nine states join forces on global warming

Franz Litz was in college when he first heard our president Fred Krupp explain how market incentives can spur environmental progress; he was convinced enough to become an intern with us. Now we're working together again, this time on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a commitment by nine northeastern states to establish caps on utilities' global warming pollution—and an interstate trading market to achieve the caps at lowest cost.

As New York State's coordinator of climate change policy, Litz chairs the group. Because RGGI is modeled on the successful system we helped develop for acid rain, he asked us to join an advisory panel. This summer all nine states—from Maine to Delaware—agreed to emissions targets. Even the region's utilities participated constructively.

As the first broad commitment in the United States to the international efforts to curb greenhouse gases, the trading agreement sets several precedents. One is a standard for how to credit activities like reforestation, which draws carbon dioxide out of the air, offsetting emissions elsewhere.

"The willingness of Environmental Defense to get behind emissions trading

Emissions are to be capped from Maine to Delaware.

when other mainstream groups were flat-out opposed" has been crucial to success, says Litz. "Now even the grassroots groups are on board. You've been a consistently positive force, finding ways to bridge gaps between industry and the environmental side."

High noon for the Utah prairie dog

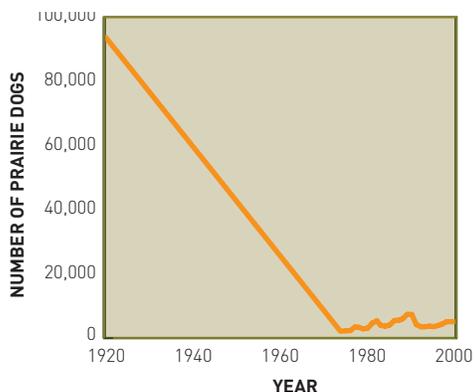
To most Americans, the prairie dog is a beloved symbol of America's wide-open spaces. For many farmers and ranchers in the West, however, it's a pest that damages crops and hinders their ability to earn a living.

Utah rancher Allen Henrie recalls how his father spent hours with his single-shot .22, picking off prairie dogs. "He wanted to get rid of all of them," Henrie says. By the 1960s, none were left on the family's 900-acre spread in southern Utah.

In a sign of changing attitudes, Henrie signed a Safe Harbor agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service this summer to reintroduce prairie dogs on a portion of his ranch. The agreement is the nation's first for prairie dogs. "I've been called all sorts of names, including stupid," says Henrie, "but I'm convinced this is the right thing to do."

For half a century, landowners—with the help of government agencies—devastated prairie dog populations. In

Utah prairie dog populations since 1920



1973, the Utah prairie dog was placed on the endangered list. Today, only 5,000 remain. Urban development, agricultural growth and prolonged drought caused a decline in healthy rangelands and loss of prairie dog habitat.

As is often the case, many of the actions that ranchers could take to improve their lands for grazing, such as clearing brush and restoring native grass-



Raymond K. Gelimani/Getty Images

Improving habitat for the Utah prairie dog will also help other vanishing wildlife, including the swift fox, mountain plover and sage grouse.

es, are beneficial for prairie dogs. Since ranchers often lack the money for such improvements, Environmental Defense helped secure funds to pay ranchers to improve grazing lands in exchange for welcoming new prairie dogs.

Under his Safe Harbor agreement, Henrie will thin brush, plant native grasses and reintroduce a new prairie dog colony on the restored land. "This is a win-win situation," says Henrie. "I win by getting rangeland improved and hopefully the prairie dog wins by gaining new habitat." Environmental Defense pioneered Safe Harbor a decade ago.

"We hope to create an environment where ranchers begin to see that healthy rangeland can support both livestock and prairie dogs," says our ecologist Ted Toombs. Our goal is to bring about the Utah prairie dog's recovery and eventual removal from the endangered list.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIVATE LANDS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service adopted a prairie dog recovery plan in 1991 that focused on public land. The population failed to rebound, however, as the best habitat is on private lands.

"We need to make private landowners a part of the solution," says the Fish and Wildlife Service's Elise Boeke. "If it hadn't been for Environmental Defense, we wouldn't be half as far along as we are today. Environmental Defense understands the importance of economics to private landowners—as well as the biology. That's a strong combination."

Already, another Utah landowner, Mitchell Pace, has a Safe Harbor agreement pending and will make improvements using Farm Bill monies that we helped secure. "By working together, instead of butting

heads, we'll all come out ahead. Under the right circumstances, cattle and prairie dogs can coexist," he says.

"If it hadn't been for Environmental Defense, we wouldn't be half as far along as we are today," says Fish and Wildlife's Boeke.

"These projects demonstrate the flexibility of the Endangered Species Act," adds Toombs. "If we can help this controversial species come back, imagine how these approaches can help other wildlife."



Grant Heitman Photography

Common ground: "Overcoming biases will take time," says our ecologist Toombs, "but prairie dogs and livestock can get along."

Recently imperiled, a slice of paradise is saved

COALITION HELPS WIN UNPRECEDENTED MARINE REFUGE IN HAWAIIAN STATE WATERS



Erwin and Peggy Bauer/Animals Animals

The world's 1,300 remaining Hawaiian monk seals now have a better chance at survival. The new reserve will preserve lobsters, their key food source.

Northwest of the Hawaiian island of Kaua'i, we've just won a fierce tug-of-war over an isolated and biologically rich archipelago. At 84 million acres, stretching across 1,200 miles, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve is America's largest marine protected area: habitat for millions of seabirds and endangered species, centrally important to Native Hawaiian cultural identity. But there remained a crucial missing piece. The shallow state-governed waters rimming the many islands within the reserve had never been protected, though they shelter most of the ancient corals and the richest biodiversity in the archipelago. The latest struggle was



Bishop Museum

Tradition won out. Environmental Defense teamed up with traditional fishers.

over that fragile ecosystem.

On one side stood the Western Pacific Regional Fishing Management Council (Wespac), sixteen people who oversee federal fishing policies in the region. Among its members are large-scale fishermen, including at least one who has been convicted of illegal fishing in the very waters he is duty-bound to protect.

On the other side was the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands *hui* (or network) of local fishers, Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, divers, scientists, the 'Īlio'ulaokalani Coalition; Kahea: The Hawaiian Environmental Alliance and Environmental Defense.

Our staff provided research on the environmental and economic benefits of protecting near-shore ecosystems, and gave local organizations grants and access to our Action Network; that support gave people "an opportunity to be well-informed in their public comments," said Cha Smith, Kahea's executive director. We accompanied Native Hawaiians to Washington, where "our connections to the White House and Hill became their connections," says our scientist Dr. Stephanie Fried. Over five years, the *hui* brought citizens to more than 30 hearings, submitted 100,000 messages by letter, email and fax, and testified to state and federal officials. "This is what democracy looks like," says Fried.

The battle was urgent. Until a 1999 lawsuit by Earthjustice, a handful of ves-

sels, allied with Wespac, had been decimating the shallow-water lobsters—at times catching 500% of the limit. The destruction of that food supply jeopardized the world's last Hawaiian monk seals, now numbering just 1,300. Though we persuaded the Clinton White House to issue an executive order permanently closing the lobster fishery in federal waters, Wespac was pressing the state to restart lobster and bottom-fish fishing in its waters.

Instead, moved by what Smith calls "our chorus of unified voices," the state banned fishing in all its waters within the reserve: 1,000 square miles. It also requires anyone seeking a permit for activities there to prove they will do no harm. The plan now awaits Gov. Lingle's signature.

We're also working to extend those stringent protections: Within days of our state victory, Rep. Case (D-HI) introduced a bill to expand the state bans and do-no-harm provisions into federal waters.



Minden Pictures

A long way from Waikiki: Waters of the reserve are among the world's most productive.

That legislation is vital, as some Federal officials are now trying to weaken federal protections, reopen permanently closed areas and increase commercial fishing.

Environmental Defense and its partners urge national policymakers to follow Hawai'i's lead. As Peter Young, chairman of the state's Department of Land and Natural Resources, said: "We heard loud and clear from the public that the Northwest Hawaiian Islands are a special place worthy of the highest levels of protection."

EPA lifts veil of haze in national parks



Janice Caswell

summer, the Environmental Protection Agency took long-awaited steps to address this serious problem.

For decades, haze formed from tiny particles of industrial pollution has been spoiling the scenery—and health conditions—from Acadia to Yellowstone. EPA's new guidelines to cut haze are the result of an Environmental Defense court settlement and persistent pressure from our staff, including our scientist Dr. Jana Milford, who documented park pollution in the report *Clearing the Haze From Western Skies*. The new rules “move the ball forward,” says Dr. Milford.

We will work with states to implement them by 2007—and continue to push for more stringent air quality standards.



Find the full report at www.environmentaldefense.org/go/westernhaze.

On a clear day you can see forever.

More often than not, the view from the Grand Canyon's rim these days is likely to be out of focus and the vibrant colors of the canyon walls muted. Air pollution from distant sources is the cause. This

Developers can offset air pollution

California's San Joaquin Valley is booming. Its population is soon expected to double to seven million. That's good economic news, but it also means more traffic and pollution in an area that already suffers the nation's worst air quality. Fortunately, the Valley need not face a congested, polluted future. Environmental Defense is promoting an innovative policy that makes way for growth without sacrificing quality of life and healthy air.

Known as an Indirect Source Rule (ISR), the policy requires builders to offset pollution from new developments. They can do this by adopting energy-saving measures such as double-paned windows, reducing vehicle pollution—such as by providing an electric shuttle between housing and shopping—or funding off-site pollution cuts.

Several California communities are exploring ISRs,

and the San Joaquin Valley is using the approach to help meet federal standards for healthy air. But its proposed rule would offset less than half of new emissions. We released a study showing it could offset pollution 100%. “Commonsense, affordable steps will allow the San Joaquin Valley to grow while maintaining livable communities,” says Kathryn Phillips, California manager of our Clean Air for Life campaign.



Tony Freeman/Photo Edit

The San Joaquin Valley suffers the nation's worst air quality. Should developers help reduce it?

North Carolina gets serious about global warming



istop/image State

North Carolina's Outer Banks are particularly vulnerable to more frequent and severe hurricanes.

With its extensive coastline and low barrier islands, North Carolina is especially vulnerable to sea-level rise and hurricanes, two expected ramifications of global warming. Now the state has taken defensive action with its North Carolina Global Warming Act.

Passed by an overwhelming margin, the Act creates a commission charged with assessing climate impacts and recommending goals for reducing greenhouse gas pollution. It is the first significant action on global warming by a southeastern state. Our analyst Michael Shore, who helped write the bill, said, “While our leaders in Washington say there is a need to address global warming pollution, North Carolina is actually stepping up to the challenge.”

In a related development, a bipartisan task force convened by Environmental Defense reported that addressing global warming could be a boon to the state's fortunes. The report will help shape the agenda of the climate change commission.

Task force member Simon Rich, a former CEO of Louis Dreyfus Holding Company, concluded, “Key sectors of North Carolina's economy stand to earn billions of dollars and create tens of thousands of jobs.”

To learn more about winemaking methods and labeling—and where to find good organic wines—try these resources:

Making choices

For a consumer guide to organic wines: The Organic Consumers Association, 6101 Cliff Estate Road, Little Marais, MN 55614; 218-226-4164; organicconsumers.org/Organic/OrganicWine.htm.

For a detailed guide to deciphering wine labels: Professional Friends of Wine, 1625 Simpson, Kingsburg, CA 93631; 559-225-4051; www.winepros.org/consumerism/labels.htm.

For a historical perspective from a group that was involved in the organic labeling controversy, visit organicwine.com.

Green goblets

Badger Mountain Vineyards offers USDA organic wines, including 2004 Johannisberg Riesling (\$8): badgermtvineyard.com, 1-800-643-9463. USDA organic wines also are available from Frey Vineyards (www.freywine.com, 1-800-760-3739), LaRocca Vineyards (www.laroccavineyards.com, 1-800-808-9463) and others.

Top-rated wines made from organic grapes include: Robert Sinskey Vineyards' 2002 Los Carneros Pinot Noir (\$30): robertsinskey.com, 1-800-869-2030; and Bonterra Vineyards' 2001 Syrah (\$24): www.winetasting.com/bonterravineyards, 1-800-846-8637.



Can environmentally sensitive growing methods produce great wines?

Behind the label: Organic wine comes of age

Actor Paul Giamatti, who plays wine connoisseur Miles Raymond in the film *Sideways*, detects a “soupçon of asparagus” and a “flutter of nutty cheese” in one wine and waves away another as “quaffable but far from transcendent.” Surprisingly for an up-to-the-minute oenophile, however, he never wonders if the wines he’s critiquing are organic.

Organic wines have come a long way. In the 1970s, many were just plain bad, but today’s offerings compete with the world’s top vintages. Organics now make up 2 to 3% of the U.S. market and production is growing a steady 20% a year, mostly in California. In Mendocino County’s winemaking region, for example, 14% of the vineyards have switched to organic production, avoiding the use of conventional pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.

In California, more pesticides are used on non-organic grapes than any other crop.

Environmentally, this represents a major shift from conventionally grown grapes, which—contrary to wine’s “natural” image—use large amounts of pesticides. In California, where 90 % of domestic wines are produced, grapes receive more pesticides than any other crop.

But the momentum of the industry is threatened by a vexing question: How do you define organic wine? Three years ago, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) began certifying and labeling organic products, including wines.

Some winemakers say USDA standards for organic wine are too strict. The requirement not to add sulfites, they say, makes it very difficult to control fermentation. Without sulfites, “the wine is likely to turn bad before consumers can enjoy it,” says wine buyer Michel Ginoulhac.

Sulfites aren’t a problem for the

* Guest columnist Jim Motavalli is editor of *E/The Environmental Magazine* (for subscription information: 800-967-6572 or emagazine.com). Opinions are the author’s and not those of Environmental Defense staff. Environmental Defense makes no endorsement of the products for sale.

great majority of wine drinkers, but they can trigger allergic reactions—including headaches and cramps—in up to 5%, and they are especially hazardous for asthmatics. Although sulfites occur naturally in wine, vintners typically add more (to a concentration between 50 and 200 parts per million) as a preservative that inhibits bacteria.

Here's a brief guide to the universe of organic wine and tips for negotiating the labeling maze:

- **USDA organic.** To be labeled “organic,” a wine must have 95% organic ingredients and no added sulfites.
- **Almost organic.** To be labeled “made from organic grapes,” a wine must contain 70% organic ingredients, and sulfites must be below 100 parts per million

(ppm). If sulfites are above 10 ppm, a “Contains Sulfites” label is affixed.

A “transitional” wine is produced organically, but the vineyard is in a prescribed three-year waiting period as it moves away from conventional methods. A “sustainable agriculture” claim may or may not be true; it doesn't have a legally defined meaning. With imported wines, the buyer is often in the dark. Look for the label of a certifying agency.

Wine labeled “organic” or “made from organic grapes” ranges from \$8 to \$75 a bottle. Not surprisingly, quality varies considerably. From an environmental point of view, though, both of these categories are preferable to conventionally produced wine.

—Jim Motavalli

In the market for a tax break?



Your real estate can benefit the environment—and you—in a variety of ways.

- Donate your real estate: receive a tax deduction and avoid capital gains tax.
- Use your real estate to establish a charitable trust or gift annuity.
- Remain in your property during your lifetime, giving Environmental Defense the remainder interest.

To explore these options, contact Anne Doyle, Environmental Defense, 257 Park Avenue South, NY, NY 10010; 877-677-7397; ospreys@environmentaldefense.org

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE ACTION CENTER

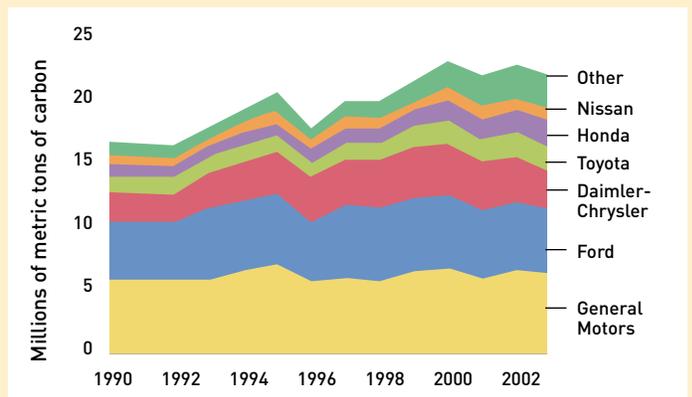
Automakers must do their fair share

General Motors is global warmer number one. So concludes a groundbreaking Environmental Defense analysis, Automakers' Corporate Carbon Burdens, which examines companies' responsibility for global warming. The study calculates each manufacturer's “carbon burden”—the amount of carbon dioxide gas released by its cars and trucks.

Its conclusions are stunning: Vehicles sold in the U.S. by GM in 2003 will emit 6.4 million metric tons of carbon, equivalent to nine coal-fired power plants running full-tilt for one year. Ford follows closely behind. “As market leaders, GM and Ford have an obligation to help the government define policies for less-polluting vehicles. Instead, they obstruct progress,” says our automotive expert Dr. John DeCicco.

GM and Ford have the highest carbon burden partly because they sell the most vehicles, but global warming pollution from all automakers is increasing—it jumped 25% from 1990 to 2003. And because the amount of this pollution is directly related to how much fuel a car burns, more pollution means more oil dependence. “While the rest of the world cuts global warming pollution and limits oil use, pollution from U.S. cars and trucks continues to rise,” says our automotive analyst Freda Fung.

Automakers have agreed to cut pollution in China and Europe but they have blocked such policies here by suing California over its law to limit heat-trapping gases from vehicles. The energy bill recently passed by Congress largely



Automakers' carbon burdens from new automobiles sales.

ignores vehicle emissions and mileage standards. Manufacturers claim such regulations will increase prices, but history proves otherwise: Automakers have cost-effectively cut smog pollution more than 90% since 1970.

Even the companies who paint themselves green are moving in the wrong direction, our study finds. Toyota's overall emissions have ballooned as it expands sales of SUVs. Its hybrids don't even begin to make up for the increase. “Instead of touting a few green products, automakers should support a national effort to cap greenhouse gases,” says DeCicco.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: Demand that automakers stop blocking state efforts to control global warming pollution. Send a message to automakers at www.environmentaldefense.org/action.

Congress acts to clean up the worst diesel polluters



Lester Lefkowitz/Corbis

Older trucks can spew out high levels of pollution for decades. The new legislation gives owners a way to reduce that pollution by 80%.

Diesel vehicles are the country's workhorses, but they are also notorious polluters, emitting half of all the unhealthy fine particulate pollution from mobile sources in the United States.

Although new diesel engines will be cleaner starting in 2007, existing diesel vehicles will remain in use for decades, exacting a serious toll on human health.

This summer, Congress took an important step toward cleaning up existing diesels when it passed the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act. Sponsored by Senator George Voinovich (R-OH), it will create a national program addressing all types of diesel-powered equipment, including trucks, ships, locomotives, school buses and tractors.

"This bill not only delivers significant pollution reductions, but it is also good for the economy," says our air expert Mark MacLeod, who was on the team assisting Senator Voinovich with the legislation. Our report *Cleaner Air for America*, released prior to the vote, showed that

every dollar invested in lowering diesel pollution from existing engines yields \$12

in health benefits (www.environmentaldefense.org/go/cleanerairamerica).

The new law authorizes \$1 billion over five years in grants and loans to clean up existing fleets. Fleet owners can retrofit engines or replace older, dirtier engines with new ones.

"This law relies on American ingenuity to deliver healthier air to millions of Americans," says MacLeod, who helped develop a 2001 diesel retrofit program in Texas that laid the groundwork for the new national law.

Working with the Clean Air Task Force and the Ohio Environmental Council, we reached out to Senator Voinovich, who then recruited Republicans, Democrats and industry leaders such as Caterpillar and Cummins to advance the legislation.

Saying 'no' to dirty BUGs

In a victory for clean air that we have long advocated, EPA has proposed new rules to clean up one of the last major unregulated sources of diesel pollution: stationary diesel engines.

Some 600,000 of these engines are in use nationwide, mostly in backup electrical generators (BUGs). They emit pollution at levels roughly 20 times higher than the standard for new trucks, and many are located near schools and homes.

EPA announced the new rules in response to an Environmental Defense lawsuit. Now, stationary diesel equipment will have to run 90% cleaner. Diesel exhaust contains more than 40 cancer-causing compounds, ranking it among the most dangerous air pollutants.

We've already won strict limits on new diesel trucks and buses, as well as construction equipment.

"This new rule will close one of the last loopholes," says our scientists Dr. Jana Milford. Now we will press EPA for strong rules on locomotives and ships, the remaining under-regulated engines.



Tony Freeman/PhotoEdit

Mighty polluter: A backup generator.



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